

UNWRITTEN LAW SPEAKER'S THEME AT FIRST CAUCUS

Byrd's Speech Notable
Feature of Gathering
Last Night.

BOOKER IS NEW
SENATE CLERK

Judge Mann Caucus Chairman in
Upper Branch, and Mr. Echols
President Pro Tem.—Gov-
ernor's Message to Be
Read at Opening
Session.

Officers of Legislature

President pro tem, of the Senate,
Hon. Edward Echols, of Staunton.
Chairman of the Senate Caucus,
Judge William Hodges Mann, of
Nottingham.
Chairman of the House Caucus,
Hon. John W. Churchman, of Augusta.
Clerk of the Senate, M. B. Hooker,
of Halifax.
Clerk of the House, John W. Williams,
of Giles.
Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate,
Frank B. Watkins, of Charlotte.
Sergeant-at-Arms of the House,
John Johnston, of Rockbridge.
Doorkeeper of the Senate, S. M.
Donald, of Augusta.
Doorkeepers of the House, S. M.
Newhouse, of Culpeper, and E. F.
Lipscomb, of King and Queen.

BY LEWIS H. MACHEN

Simultaneous caucuses of the Democrats of the Senate and House of Delegates furnish more interest than one man can grasp. One must needs have more than one pair of eyes to watch them both. Yet alternate glances may reveal something.

Both were largely attended, and there was a goodly crowd of onlookers, many of whom showed their interest in pending contests by applauding speakers and the announcements of results. There were a few Republicans, members and their friends, who looked on in apparent unconcern.

The First Gathering:

It was the first gathering of the legislative Democratic hosts. In the relative sense the word is appropriate, since the number of Republicans

the two branches is not sufficient to count in the news of a battle, unless the battle is close. The men who wield the legislation were nearly all in evidence. There was much greeting of old friends and some introduction of new members. A few ex-members of both houses might be seen, haunting their old arenas, but, like harpists of Tara, emitting no music.

doubtful, most attention was centred there. Judge Mann, unanimously chosen chairman of the caucus, made an effective speech, impressing upon the members of the Senate their responsibilities and the opportunities for good service which awaited them. Ex-Lieutenant-Governor Echols was chosen president pro tem. of the Senate over Senator Sims by a narrow margin. The nominating and seconding speeches on behalf of the two aspirants for the clerkship of the Senate, though in good humor, were earnest and pointed.

at times partook of the nature of a debate.

Mr. Booker's nomination had practically been conceded in the afternoon and his good majority occasioned no surprise. The sergeant-at-arms and the doorkeeper of the Senate demonstrated their popularity by unanimous re-nominations.

The Senate requested the House to agree to a joint caucus to-night for the nomination of basement officers, to which the House consented. It is thought that the old officers will be

Mr. Byrd's Speech.

In the House the nominating speeches were elaborate, and for the most part effective. Mr. Massie, of Richmond, to whom had been assigned the duty of nominating the new speaker, was necessarily the star performer, and played the part perfectly.

Mr. Byrd's speech was heard with the greatest attention and interest. It was a clear and strong presentation of some of the more important sub-

jects with which the new Legislature must deal. Perhaps the portion that excited the greatest interest was that appointing out the unsatisfactory condition of the law of evidence in homicide cases, with the attendant evils of pleas of emotional insanity and the possibility of miscarriages of justice. In the application of the so-called "written law" the fact that the suggestion of a remedy did not detract from the force of the statement. His suggestions regarding the equalization of assessments for purposes of taxation and uniformity in the keeping of records

The selection of the House officers was devoid of excitement, the old officers being chosen without opposition except in the case of Colonel Newhouse, as doorkeeper, and his majority was large.

Opening To-Day.

In a few days there will probably be a joint caucus to nominate judges.

By that time the committees of both Houses will be appointed and the Legislature of 1908 will have gotten down to business.

The opening at noon to-day will formally inaugurate the session. The officers nominated last night will be elected and the Governor's message will be read in both Houses. Some